

1854-10-19

Introductory - 1854 - 5.

11 Oct. 19th - 54.

Do I meet <sup>with</sup> you here tonight?

Gentlemen, — why ~~are we~~ <sup>here</sup> ~~at this date~~ <sup>at this date</sup> ~~is it not too late a question?~~

~~Does it seem to be an idle question?~~ ~~What end is it, fellow men, that~~

~~that~~ (so many) young men ~~yearly~~ yearly gather

in the medical halls of ~~this~~ city; —

~~among~~ gentlemen, — most often the <sup>chosen men</sup> ~~flower~~ of

their neighborhoods, — from the South — &

the North — ~~the~~ the East, & the West —

from every quarter of our vast continent,

— it might almost be said, of the world?

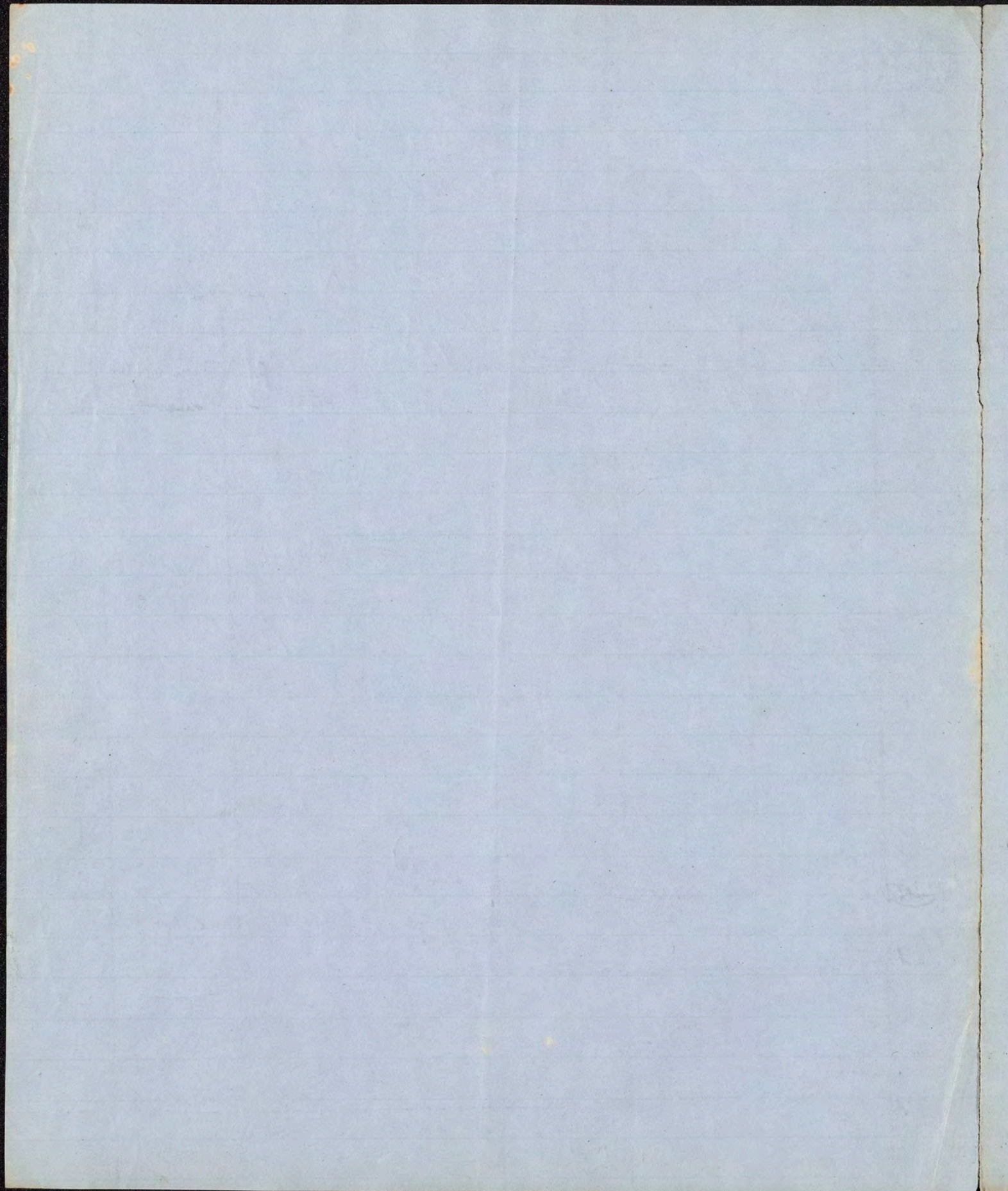
~~Have~~ you come ~~to~~ in recollection of the distinguished physicians of former times, — whose names have made Philadelphia the great Medical metropolis, ~~that you come~~ as to a Mecca,

<sup>sort of</sup> with a veneration, & a hope, that something of

its atmosphere of great medical

~~metropolis~~ mind pervade your minds.

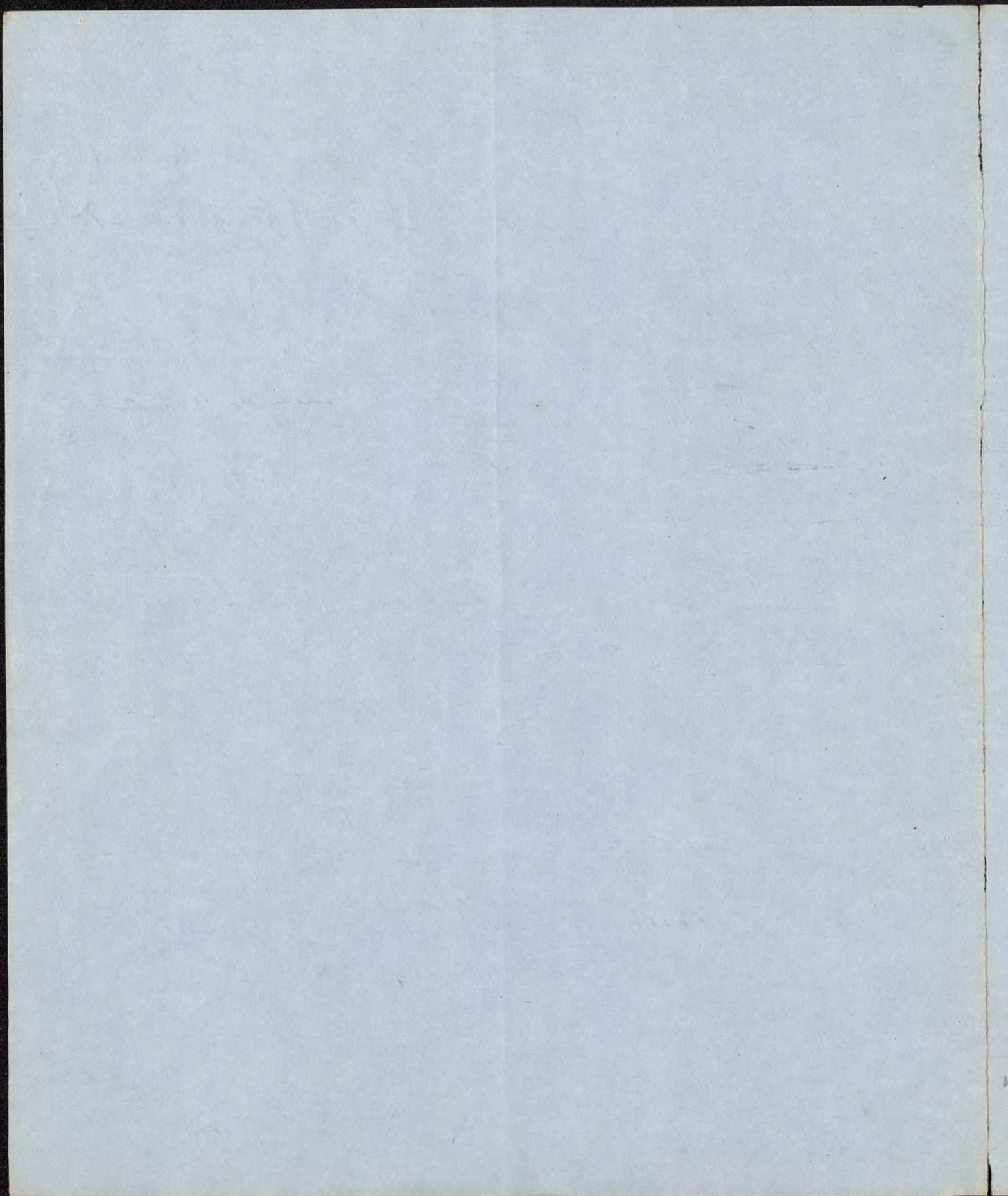






And give you ~~a~~ gift of healing, — which  
you may take with you, & so do marvellous  
things at <sup>your</sup> homes? ~~S.~~ — ~~It cannot be that this is the case~~  
for the era of hero-worship is <sup>now</sup> over;  
perhaps too soon, — but it has gone.  
No longer does Superstition linger <sup>even</sup> around  
the once more than hallowed Pelagian~~ist~~ haunts;  
far less ~~does~~ the great names of Science  
now win pilgrims to their graves for worship's  
sake. And ~~although~~, <sup>although</sup> therefore, ~~—~~ almost within  
the reach of my voice, rest the remains  
of a Purbeck, a Physick, a Wistar, a Kuhn,  
a Parrish, & Chapman, & others, <sup>their</sup> compeers, ~~with~~  
~~the~~, — yet not for this do you <sup>now</sup> gather  
near their former homes, — unless ~~some~~ <sup>some</sup> fragments  
of their mantles, — some faint breath of  
their spirit, be thought to have fallen  
upon & to animate those who follow <sup>up</sup> their tasks.

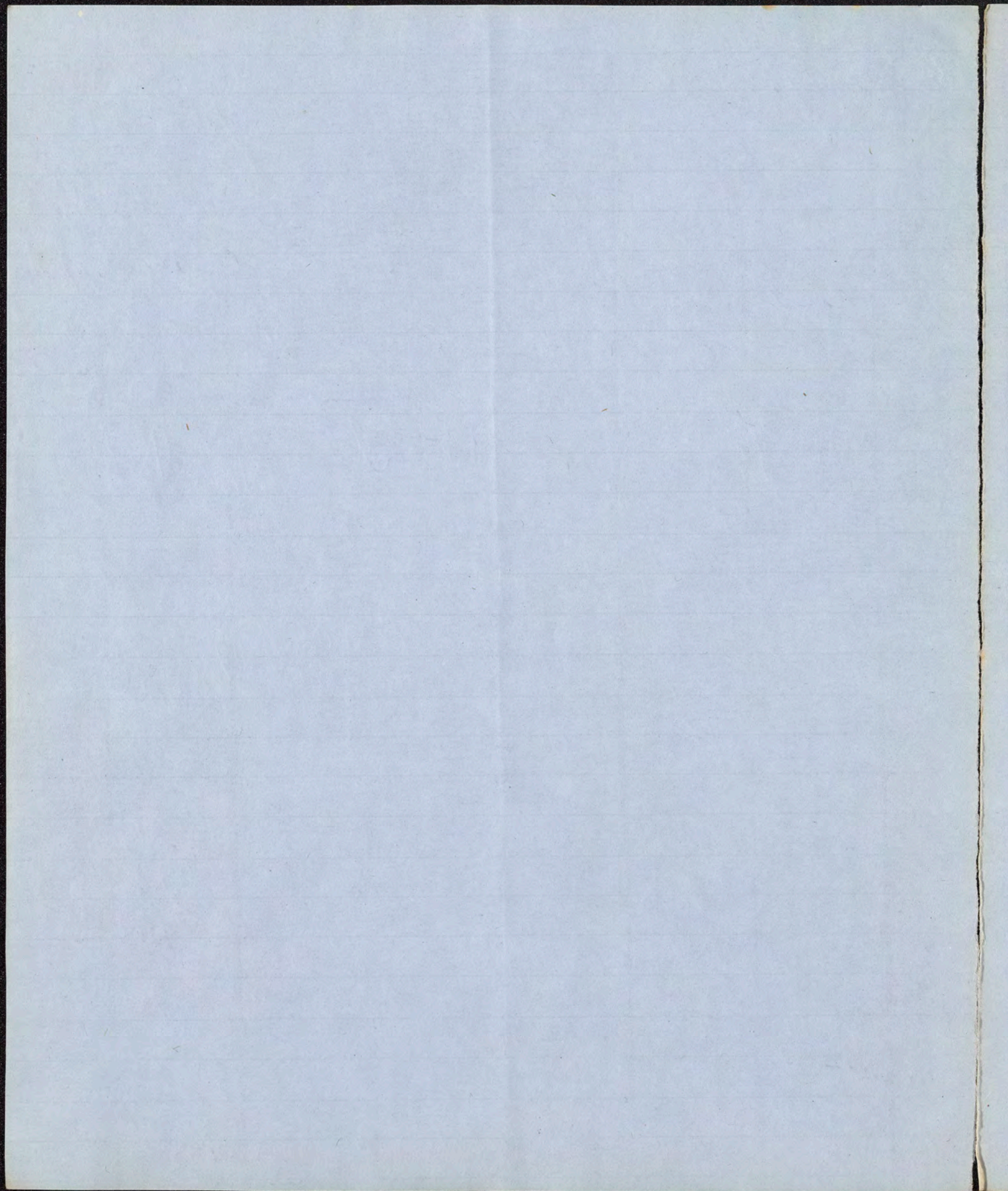






I have  
You <sup>now</sup> come, gentlemen — upon a  
most rational errand: as to an armory, —  
where you ~~are~~ <sup>may</sup> become armed and equipped,  
for <sup>hard</sup> the <sup>which before you</sup> conflict, with the great enemies  
& destructive pursuers of the human race;  
~~with Pain~~ <sup>against</sup> Infirmity, Pestilence  
and Death? You come not to find here  
in our ready hands all the polished  
& sharpened weapons for this conflict, — but  
with your own hands to dig the ~~metal~~  
ore out of the earth, when we guide you, —  
& to refine & adjust & finish it yourselves,  
till, like ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> helmeted and booted knights <sup>of old</sup>, we  
out you soldiers for the army of health &  
medicine, — Or, you are come as to  
a placer, — to a gold mine of knowledge;  
<sup>which</sup> we have been digging for <sup>little</sup> awhile before  
you, — As the medical man is forever



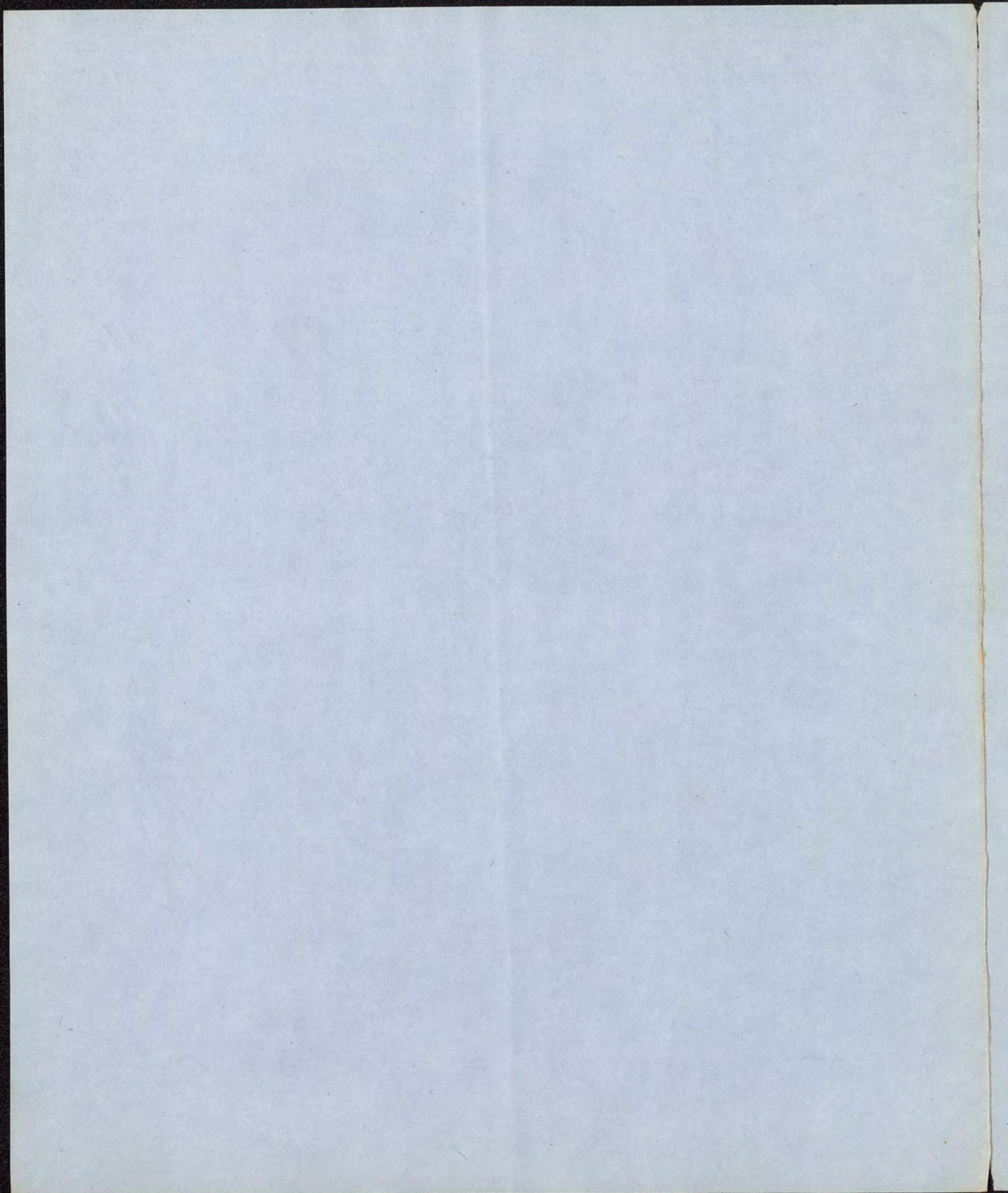




a Throat; and, - much more <sup>can</sup>  
we do you, - let me assure you, <sup>gentlemen</sup>  
~~nothing~~ by direction when and how  
~~some~~ quartz veins may be worked to yield the  
pure gold, - or the sands of some  
running streams made to yield their  
heavy dust from the cross, - than  
by any simple contributions from our  
own accumulated piles.

<sup>you must work, -</sup>  
We must work, - gentlemen, -  
for without much labor there is no knowledge.  
Ars longa, - <sup>is a true movement was,</sup> vita brevis est, - for many  
centuries - nay for thousands of years,  
has the slow mind-craft of strong-headed  
Keen-eyed men been gathering the stores of  
medical knowledge & its collateral sciences;  
can any one <sup>then,</sup> <sup>hope to</sup> grasp it in a day, - <sup>or</sup> a  
year, - nay, <sup>now</sup> in a lifetime, - or ten life-times,





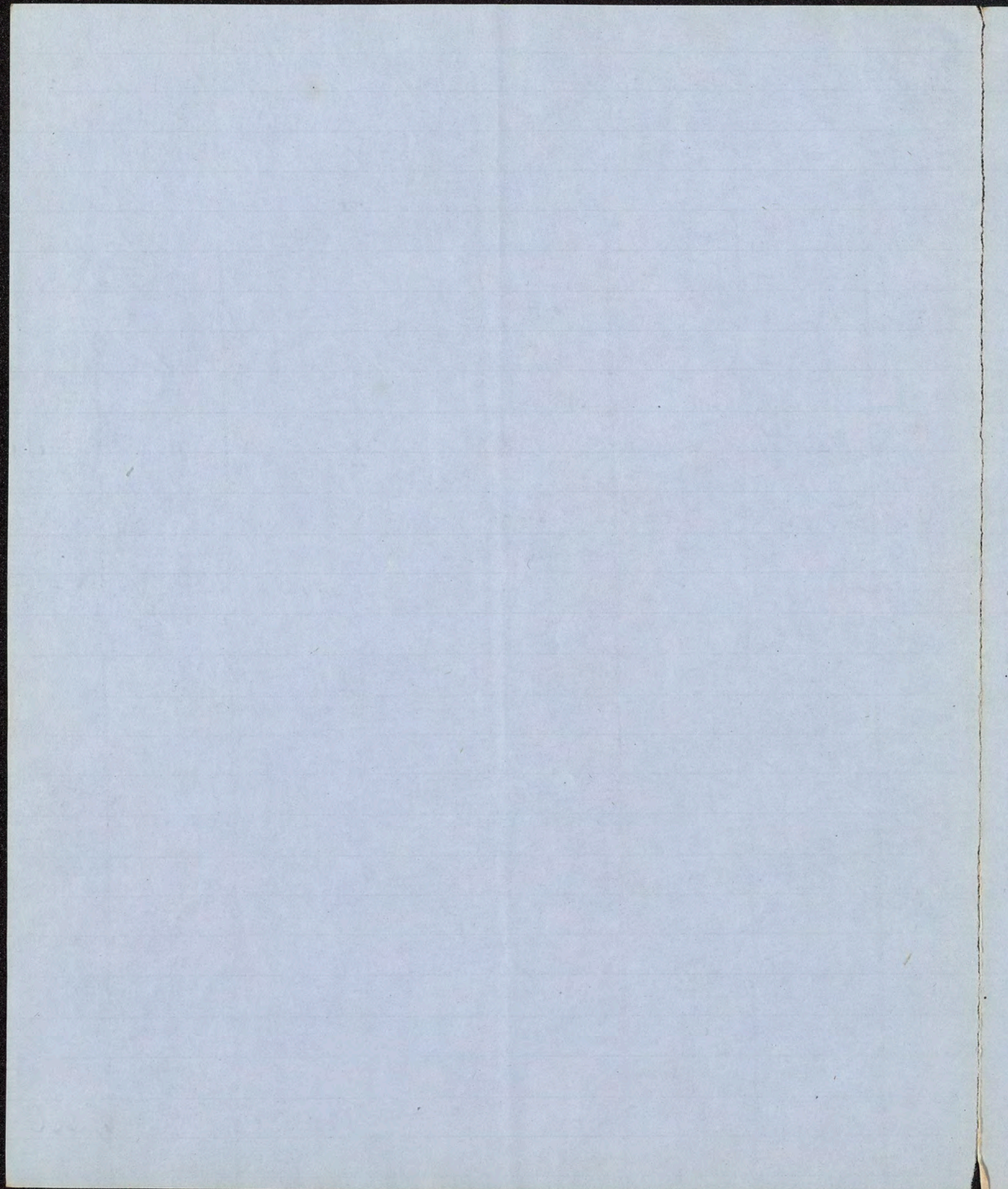


if he had them? There <sup>thus</sup> is a boundless-  
ness in the actual <sup>present</sup> reach of human knowledge,  
which may leave to any mind, — however  
ambitious of exertions — "ample room  
to verge enough" for its ambition.

But, gentlemen, there is another reason  
why we must labor; — (why in our  
vocation) — more than in many others,  
what we earn must be by the <sup>very</sup> sweat  
of our own brows. This reason is —  
because our Science is not perfect.

Let no man begin the study with the  
supposition that it is perfect. I would  
rather, so that you may estimate the character  
of ~~your~~ the obstacles you will meet —  
not only at the beginning, but in the full  
tide of your career, — give you some





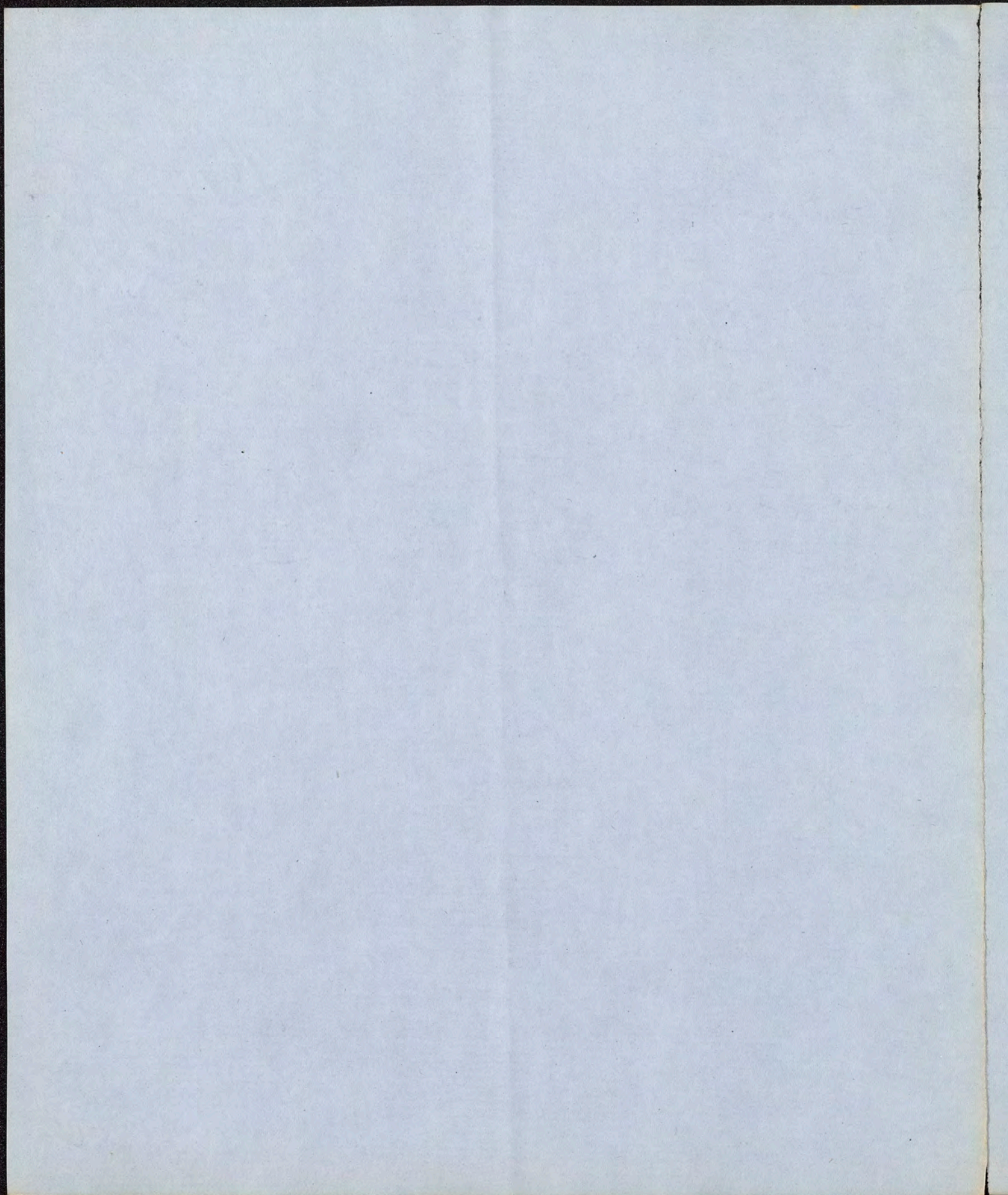


brief evidence of its imperfection,  
by telling you of some things which  
it, — Medicine, manifestly wants,  
and waits to obtain.

It needs, then, — to enter at once  
upon the catalogue, — more science &  
system, — less empiricism; more certainty  
of calculation — <sup>more principle, & less experiment.</sup> less conjecture; ^ Allow me  
to explain these assertions.

Observation, — which is the basis of  
empiricism, — <sup>that is</sup> the simple ascertainment of  
facts, unexplained as facts, — cannot be  
divorced from any Natural Science. It  
must be an essential integral part of  
the knowledge of all diseases & of all  
medicines & of their action upon each other.  
We cannot do without empiricism, therefore.







But, — the mere collection of un-  
-systematized facts is but the first  
step toward the formation of a  
Science: most especially, — when  
the collection of those facts is itself  
incomplete. We have not yet near  
all the facts regarding any one single  
variety of disease! Do you start at this  
assertion? Then, understand that I mean, — the  
radical, — intrinsic, essential & ultimate facts.  
For instance, — take the familiar malady  
of Consumption; — or <sup>that</sup> of Intermittent Fever.  
Do we know the beginnings of ~~consump~~ tuberculosis?  
We may say that it <sup>has to do with</sup> is a deficient nutrition,  
an imperfect plasma; and <sup>as some authors like</sup> Hughes Bennett, may  
say so & be well believed; but even then we  
do not get at the bottom of the matter. Why,



There was a time, when medical men were <sup>almost</sup> afraid  
to speak of these imperfections of their favorite science.  
But, now, — we have so much that is really valuable,  
and so much more coming before us in certain anticipation,  
that we can speak of them, not only without fear,  
but with emphasis; as things which we ~~must~~ lament, —  
but which must not, cannot exist must longer be  
lamented.

\* It is wanted, that we should approach more nearly to the  
accuracy of observation <sup>& record</sup>, characteristic of the other sciences,  
as Botany, — Ecology, — astronomy, — ~~to the end that we may~~  
place our science upon a similar basis of exactness.

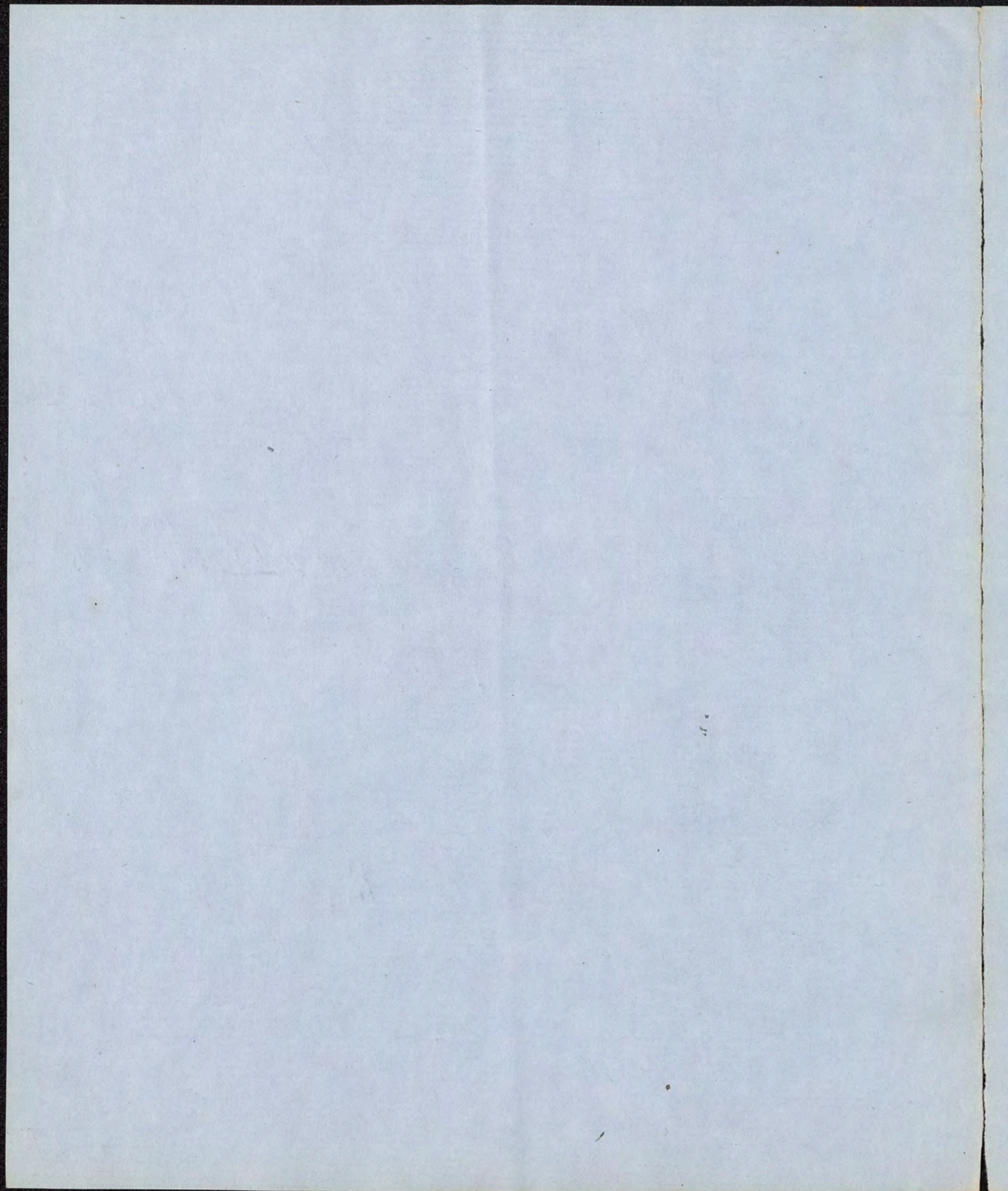


in some cases, does imperfect nutrition  
cause marasmus, — or simple undiseased  
emaciation, — ~~in others~~ or stunted growth  
& debility, — and in others scrofula, or  
tuberculosis?

And who can tell the little in-  
fluence which causes, under the name of  
Miasmata, the various fevers of our country?  
Or who can tell, in full, in terms — the exact pathology of intermittent fever?  
It may be well established, then, — from these  
simple instances, — that our science is  
deficient in facts.<sup>+</sup> It may be even  
said, that our scientific medical  
men have <sup>often been</sup> deficient in their mode of accum-  
ulating elementary facts. There has <sup>been</sup> too little sim-  
plicity, accuracy, & directness, — usually,  
in the manner in which diseases, and the effects  
of remedies, have been observed, described, and  
reasoned upon; and hence, — the vague &  
often unsatisfactory conjectural nature of our treatment.\*

I well know as that disease is into history and symptoms.







Gentlemen, — I do not wish to dis-  
courage you, <sup>now,</sup> at the outset of your  
career as medical men, by this  
Display of the errors & deficiencies of  
the Science and the art you have chosen;  
but, rather, to let the thought animate  
you of how much there is <sup>yet</sup> left which  
you ~~may~~ do, — especially if from the  
very beginning of your studies, — you  
proceed step by step with a pure logic, —  
a correct method, and unerring induction,  
under guidance of inexorable truth.  
As a teacher of the Institutes <sup>or Principles</sup> of  
Medicine, — I wish that you ~~should~~ see  
~~how~~ it is capable of principles, — that it  
has need of them, — and that we have  
need of work; every one and all of us,  
to establish them upon a sure foundation ~~principle~~.



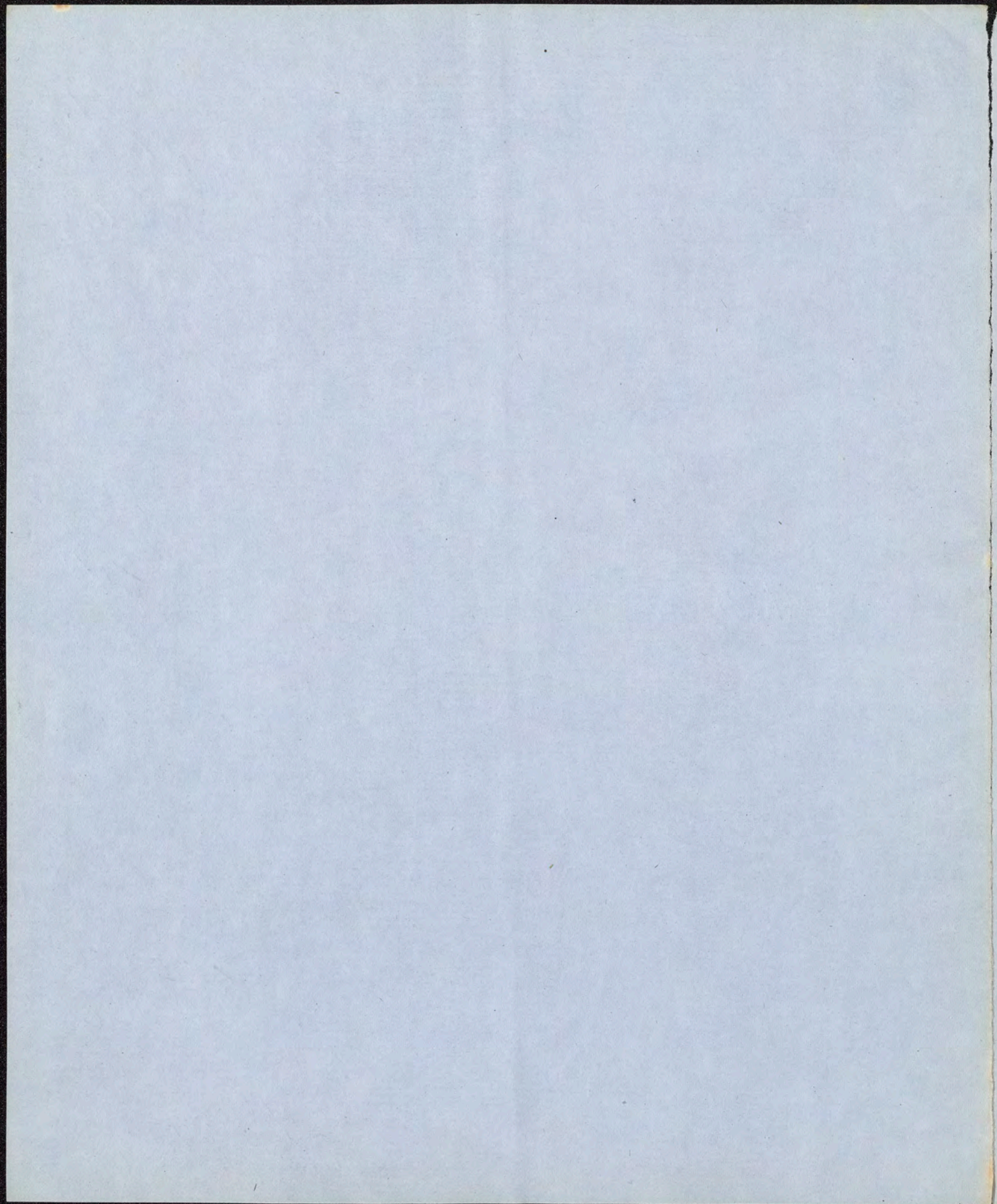
20  
1



In some special Directions we may point out to you great fields of labor, almost white unto harvest, — waiting for men earnest in pursuit of truth, to put in their sickles and reap. —

We have, for instance, — the whole Domain of Physiology: a glorious science in itself; almost, as yet, in its infancy. For ~~more than~~ <sup>2000</sup> years have the functions of man's framework been observed — commented upon and recorded, — and interference with these functions boldly ventured upon in the remedial treatment of disease. And yet, how long is it since it was known that the ~~dark~~ <sup>dark</sup> blood flowed from the ~~arter~~ veins into the heart from the heart back through the <sup>purified,</sup> lungs, into the system? Harvey wrote his treatise "De motu Sanguinis" only in 1879 or 1820. Who can tell us, today, — the uses of the spleen, — so prominent an object in your dissection of the upper abdomen?





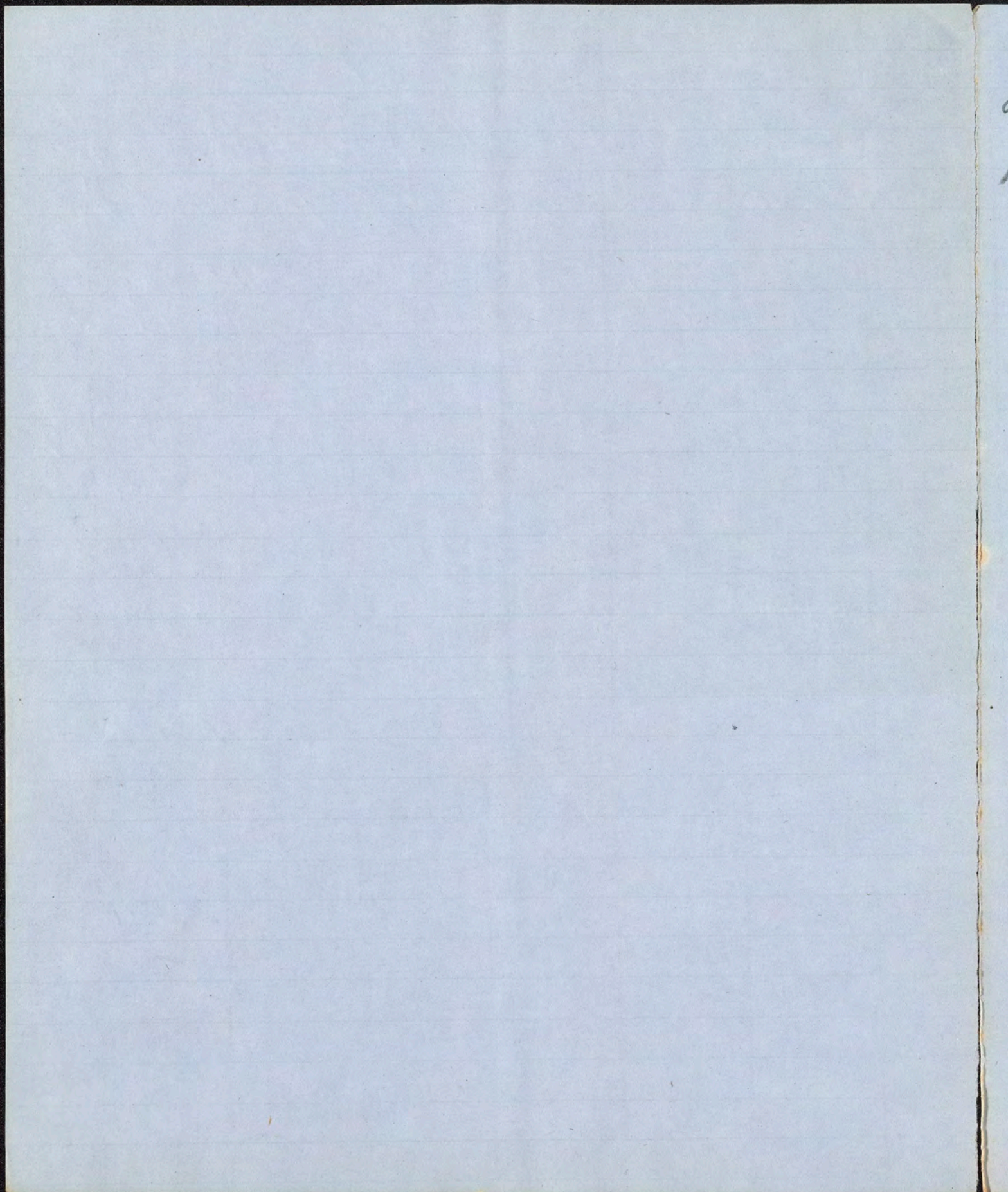


Does it make, - or disintegrate blood-  
vessels? Is it a diverticulum of blood, only, -  
or ~~is it~~ a true gland? Hypotheses, like  
echo, answers, - in various language, -  
all uncertain. And, in like uncertainty  
rests the true use of the blood corpuscles  
themselves; and of the lymphatic glands;  
and even, - to some extent, of the bile.

Nor can we give you, gentlemen, - anything like  
a <sup>complete</sup> ~~rational~~ exposition of what might be  
called the rationale of the brain and  
nervous system. Much of physiology <sup>therefore</sup> ~~is~~  
yet in darkness; but, when light pervades  
this body of obscurity & yet of so great wonder,  
how great will be that light!

When Physiology becomes a complete science,  
then may pathology grow to completeness  
also; and a rational therapeutics may then  
alone have birth, - whose <sup>embryonic</sup> rudiments we

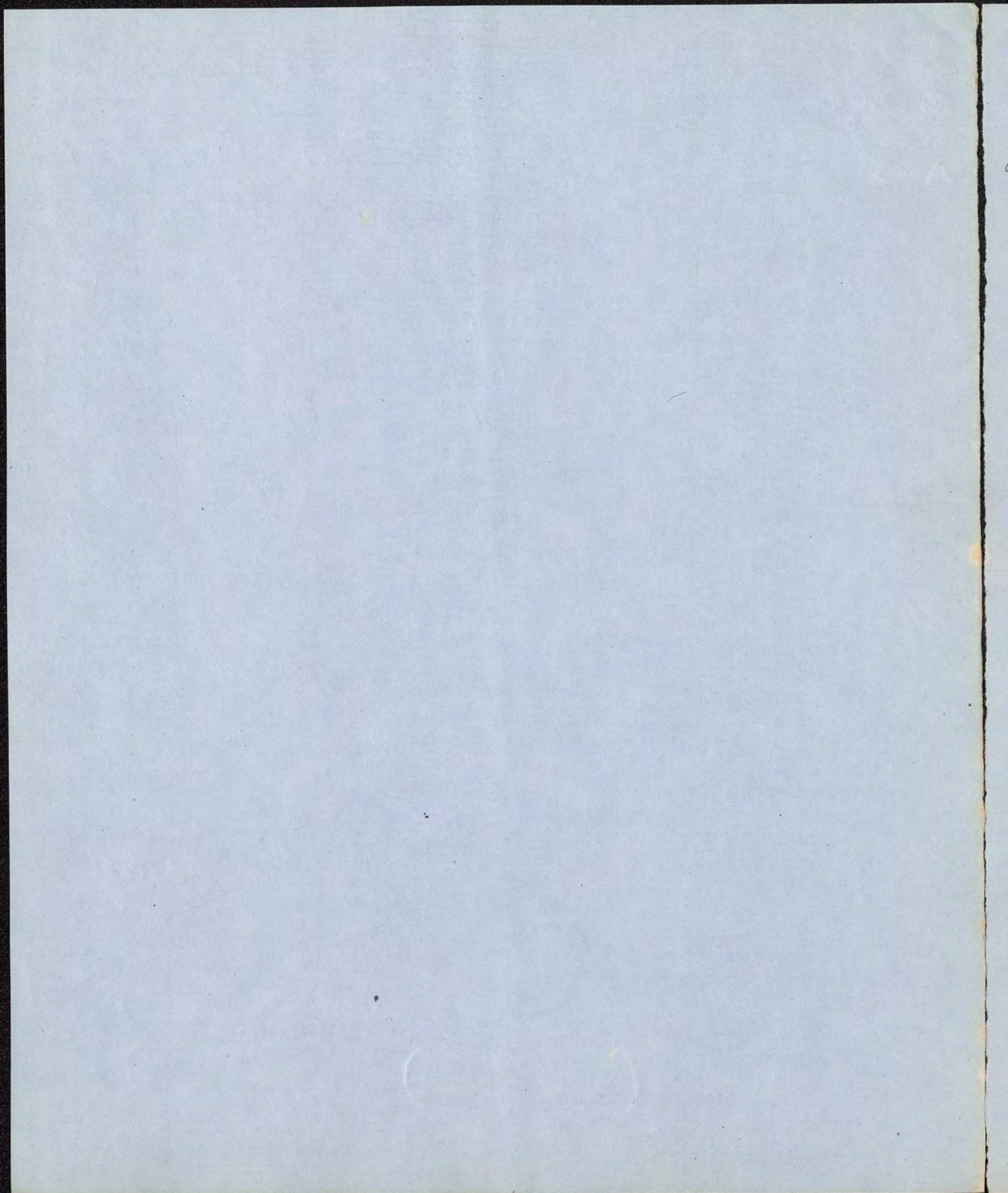






now see but as thro a glass, darkly.  
~~Among~~ ~~the~~ strict medical inquiries, — very great  
enlargement of <sup>the range of</sup> our simple radical facts  
is wanting, especially as to the real  
causes, — and <sup>as to</sup> the effects of diseases,  
and, as to the exact effects of medicines  
& other remedial agencies upon the body.  
As to the causes, <sup>I say,</sup> — and as to the effects  
of diseases, — and the true effects of  
remedies upon the body. In this is meant of  
course not the effects ~~of~~ upon symptoms  
merely, — but upon the actual substances  
& mode of action of the different solid &  
fluid portions of the organism. This known —  
we will have something tangible to act upon; —  
when now all is <sup>often</sup> vague and tentative, — a  
mere science ~~(or other art)~~ <sup>of</sup> probabilities.  
But, I will leave this topic, — to dwell



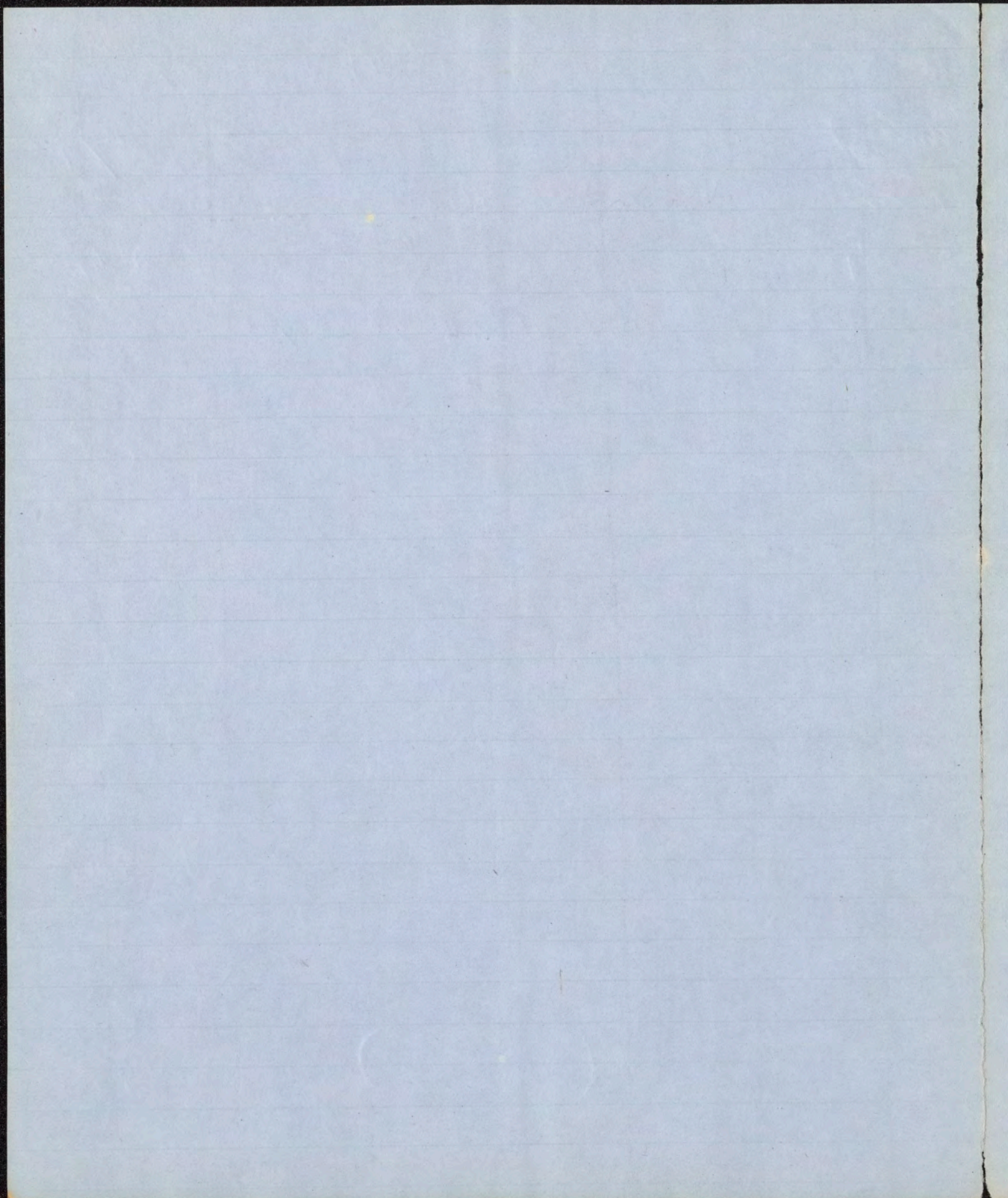




upon what will be vastly more agreeable  
to your ears, — as well as to my  
<sup>own</sup> wish; — ~~What~~ the real possessions of  
this <sup>our</sup> art of medicine, — its true scientific  
promises — and its high hope.

Immer, — Lassar, — Louis, — Ether, — microsc. chemistry &c  
The lancet, — opium, — quinine, — mercury;  
Dignify ballroom of our science, — & moral grandeur of the art & practice.  
Illustrate — (Lusk, — Lassar, &c) by Columbia, — ed. Rush's acc. of M. J. — What  
is Urban school, & Lassar & C — ? It will help you, — quote Simon, — Smith  
& Rush — & you can't tell you know, — we will let you know  
the principles upon which we may hereafter solve these Eastern puzzles —  
is that of not Promethean theft, or Phœbus' danger, pointed at of  
guidance of the sun be over, — we may contribute to the real  
advance of the welfare of our species, — acquire name — high name  
lover & creator of this science, — U, by desert &  
acquisition be fitted to become member of that body, — equal  
to any similar of any aristocracy or as democracy on either  
continent, — body of intelligent & accomplished American  
physicians! —

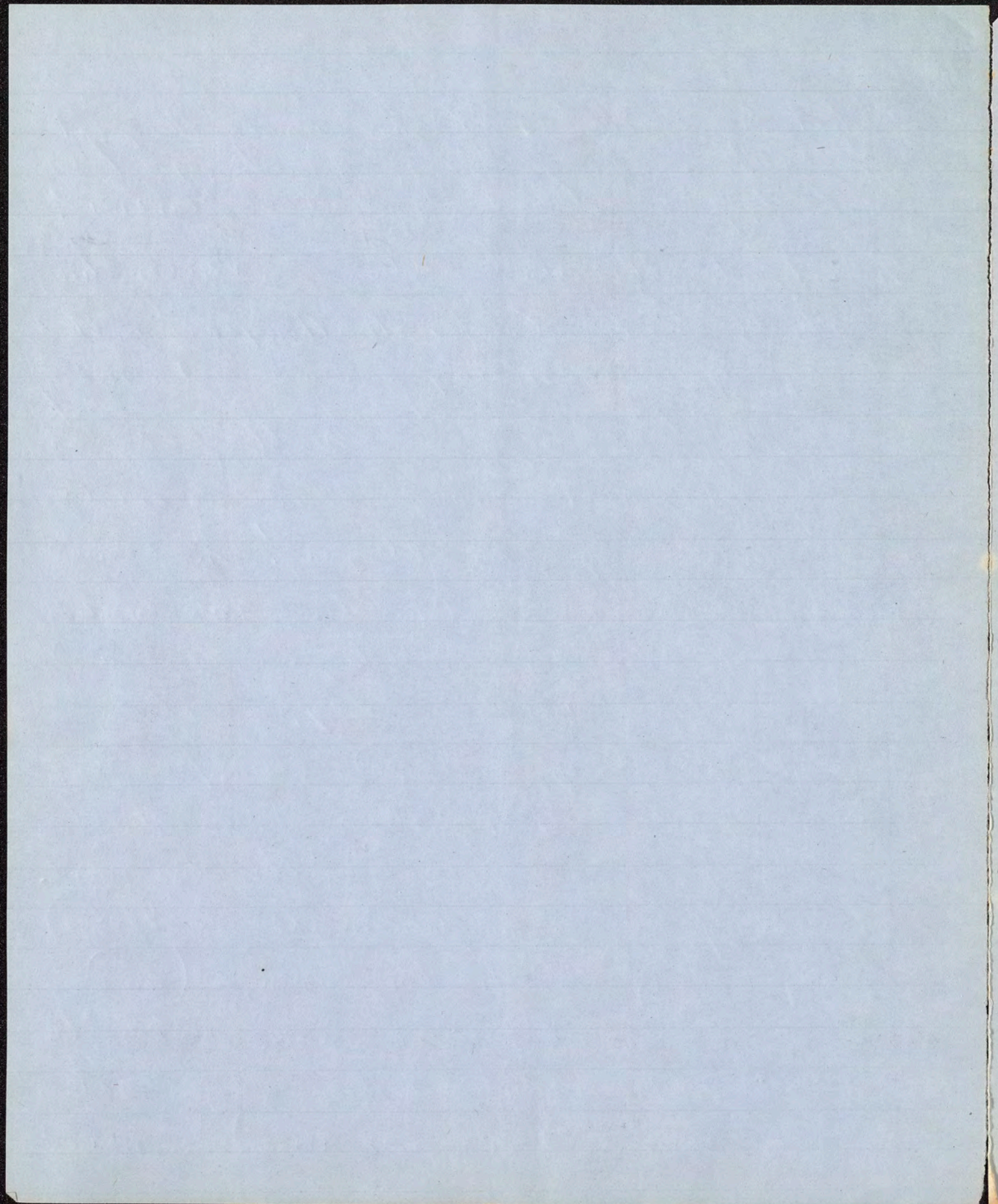






to illustrate this,  
What name, <sup>in</sup> stands higher among the great  
benefactors of humanity, — than Jenner's?  
To estimate the real value of <sup>his discovery of ~~his~~</sup> vaccination,  
we should look back to those years with  
whose hygienic history we are not many  
of us familiar; — when Small pox was  
one of the greatest scourges of the world; —  
the co-mate only of the Plague! In some  
islands and remote countries, where vaccination  
has not yet been introduced, we now and  
then hear even at this day, — of its  
resuming its old powers, and sweeping off  
the half of whole populations — and marking  
with more or less deformity, <sup>most of</sup> the survivors.  
And, scarcely less gratitude might be decreed  
by aching suffering and trembling men, — (and  
women too, even in the midst of the most terrible  
of all woman's sufferings), — to those who, — natives  
of our own American Soil, first devised the means



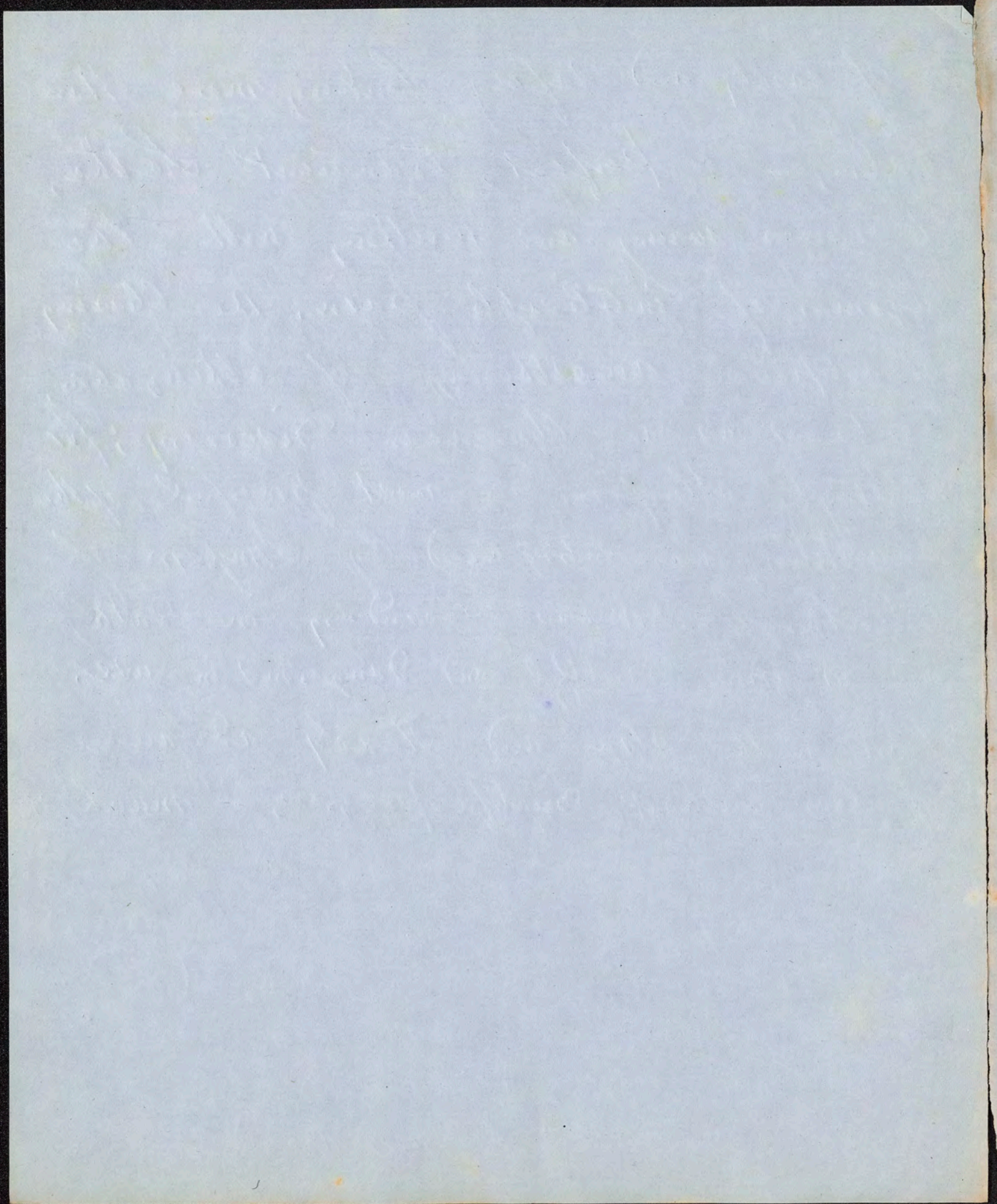




of easily and safely lending more than  
balm, — a perfect, transient Lethe,  
to nerves wrung and writhing with the  
agony of intolerable pain. The blessing  
of artificial anaesthesia, — of etherization,  
we boast as an American discovery; for  
although chloroform, the most powerful of the  
anæsthetics, was introduced by Simpson of  
Edinburgh, — it was secondary in date —  
and is more doubtful and dangerous in use.

But, in the slow and steady advance  
of less brilliant <sup>science</sup> ~~scientific progress~~, — much has  
been achieved, — much has been ~~the~~ even added  
to our stores within the last century, — to which  
the physician may point with just pride.  
Auenbrugger and Laennec gave us principles by  
which may be applied the mechanism of acoustics  
to the appreciation of disease within the body;

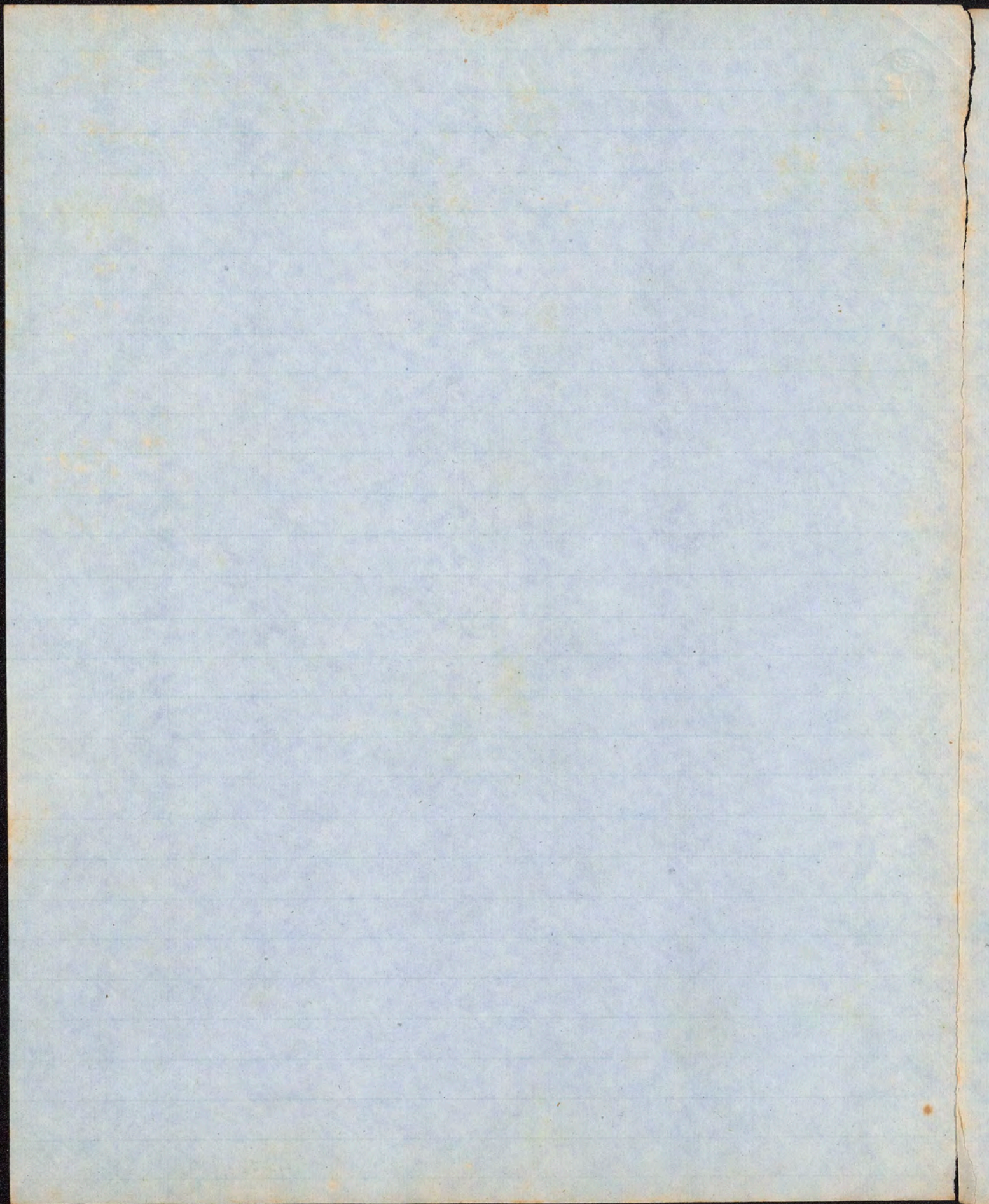






a beautiful discovery! Gentlemen, - if  
so many <sup>medical men</sup> thousands ~~men~~ had been, since Hippocrates' time, watching the ~~the~~ bed sides of pneumonia & phthisis & ~~the~~ cardinal disease, - and no man ever thought of placing his ear to the chest, - or of even sounding the hollow thoracic walls as a carpenter does ~~the~~ masonry with his hammer, - how many more things must there be, - which you and I may discover, - if we set our hearts upon it? It is worth while to think of this. =  
In the method of obtaining knowledge of disease too, medical men are approaching a truer standard. With the name of Louis is associated what is called the statistical or numerical mode of computation of disease & of the results of treatment. It has been much decried, - as well as by some over-rated, - or rather mis-apprehended. It must be attained at last, - as the only mode of ~~obtaining~~ results

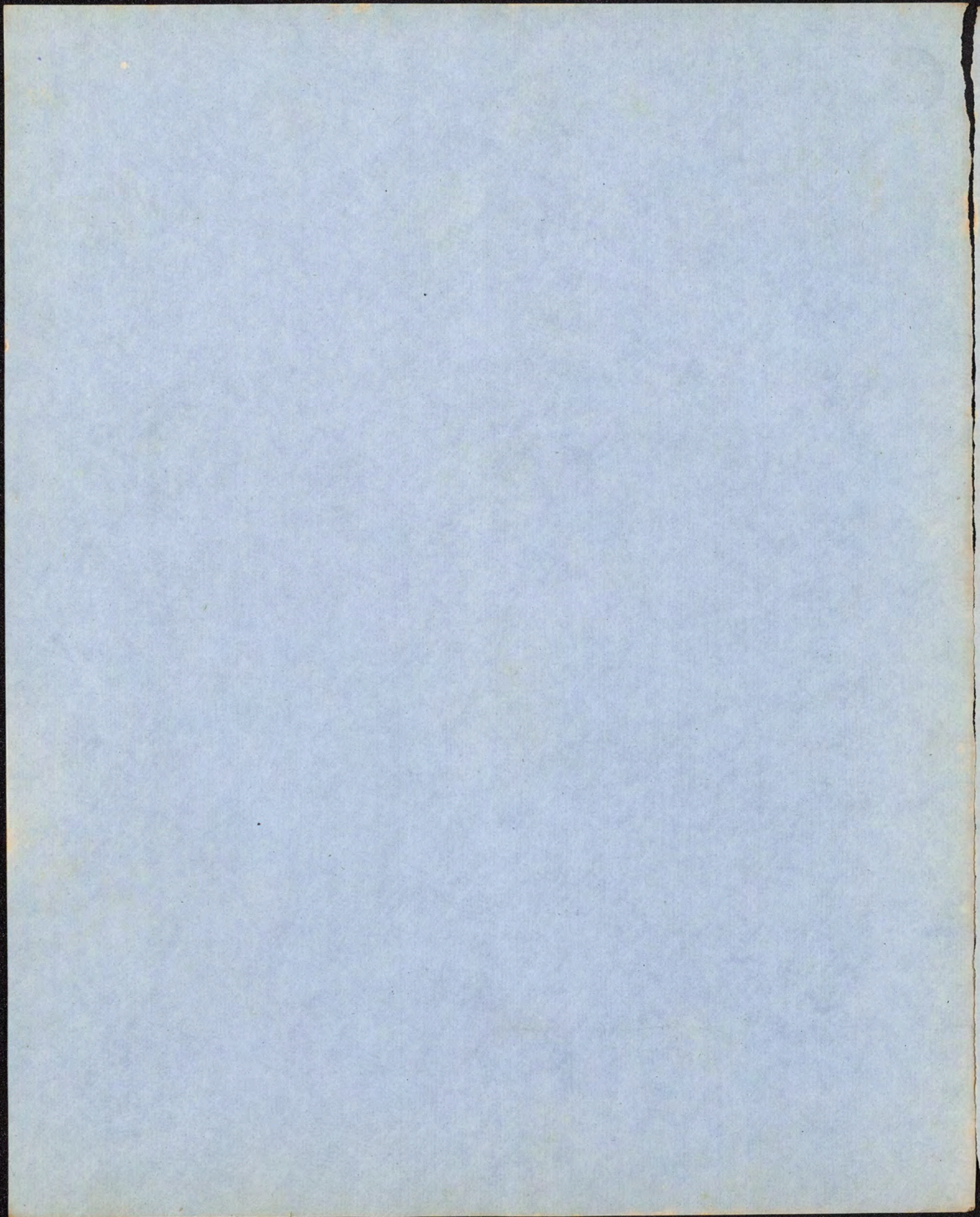






upon a scale of magnitude, and with  
a degree of accuracy in proportion to the  
needs of our art. It is certainly not pos-  
sible for any science of results to become  
perfect without numerical details; it is  
only in the Kind of comparison, — the absence  
of accuracy in the concomitant observation &  
report, — that difficulties lie which, so far,  
have made statistical medical record a  
thing to be wished for, — seldom obtained.  
We are going forward, however, in this as in  
other things. The microscope is opening a new  
world for us, — as vast <sup>almost</sup> below our unaided  
ken as the telescopic heavens rise above us. It  
has altered the very language of technical med-  
icine; has given a new alphabet to physio-  
logy; and is unravelling the mysteries of  
pathological <sup>phenomena</sup> ~~effects~~, — so that we may walk <sup>now</sup> ~~sure~~ <sup>mentally</sup>  
almost in safety amid their obscurity. Chemistry  
has aided, too, — in this work: it has very much  
more work to do: <sup>for here</sup> Alps upon Alps arise!



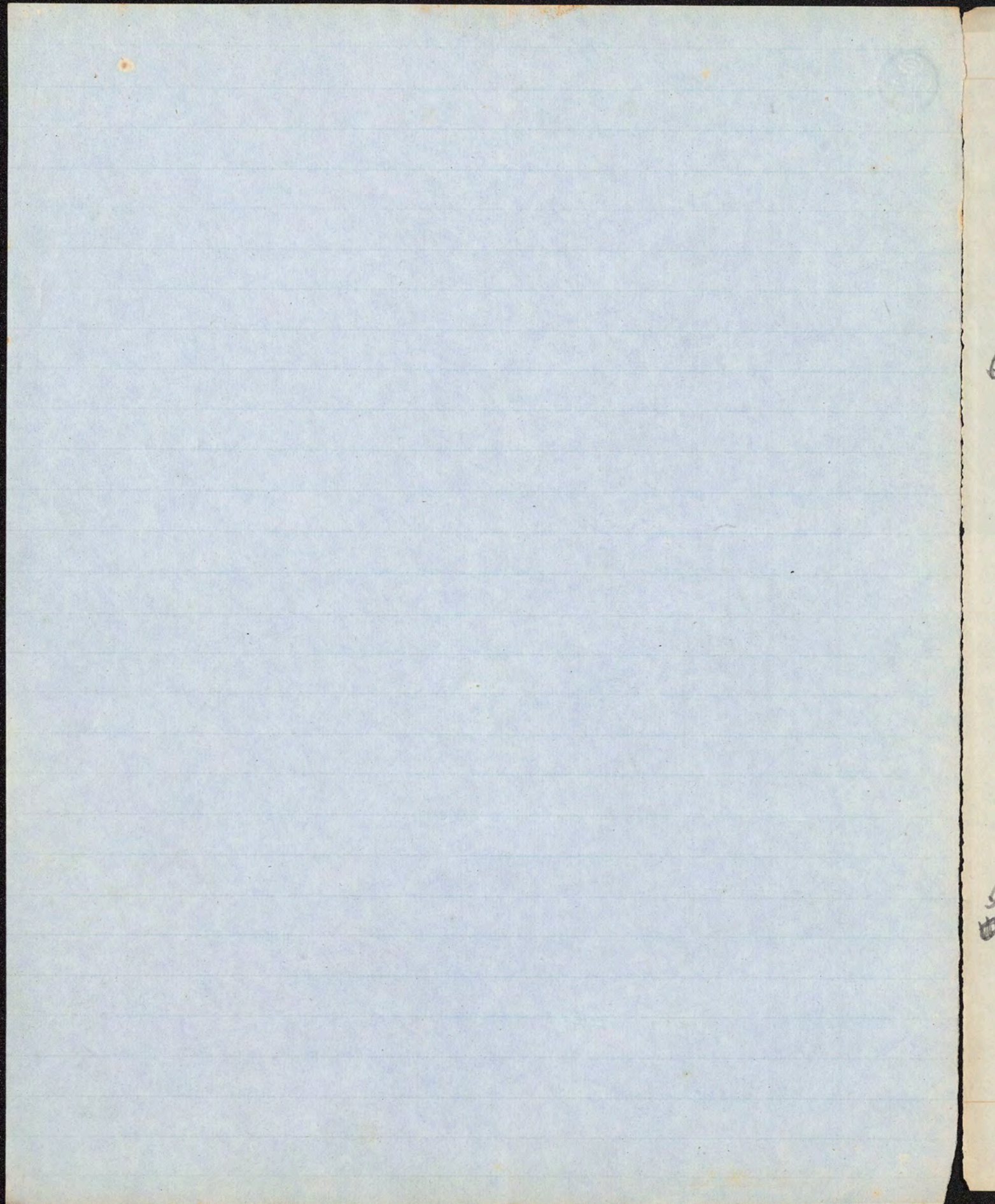




To you, gentlemen, however, — who have  
chosen the study of medicine, with, no  
doubt, a full appreciation of its treasures  
<sup>its</sup> value, — I have no need to urge any  
plea or ~~an~~ argument in favor of it. I do  
not need <sup>them at all now</sup> to mention opium, — quinine, — mercury;  
nor, the lancet; — which, once a very hero  
amongst remedies, — has now, unjustly, sunk to  
<sup>such temporary</sup> ~~disrepute~~ <sup>disrepute</sup>, — ~~that~~ that, almost, there are

"none so poor to do it reverence." I  
have no need to eulogise an art to those who  
are enlisted <sup>for it</sup>. But, it may be, <sup>still</sup>, well to  
urge you, once more before you enter on  
the hard labor of the session's study, — to  
have confidence in the dignity of your pro-  
fession. Does quackery alarm you? Hypocrisy  
& pretension are but the tributes paid by vice &  
ignorance to truth. The world would not crowd  
after the counterfeit, — if the genuine metal were  
not gold. Do you hear at times, and see around  
you sad evidence that the physician is not



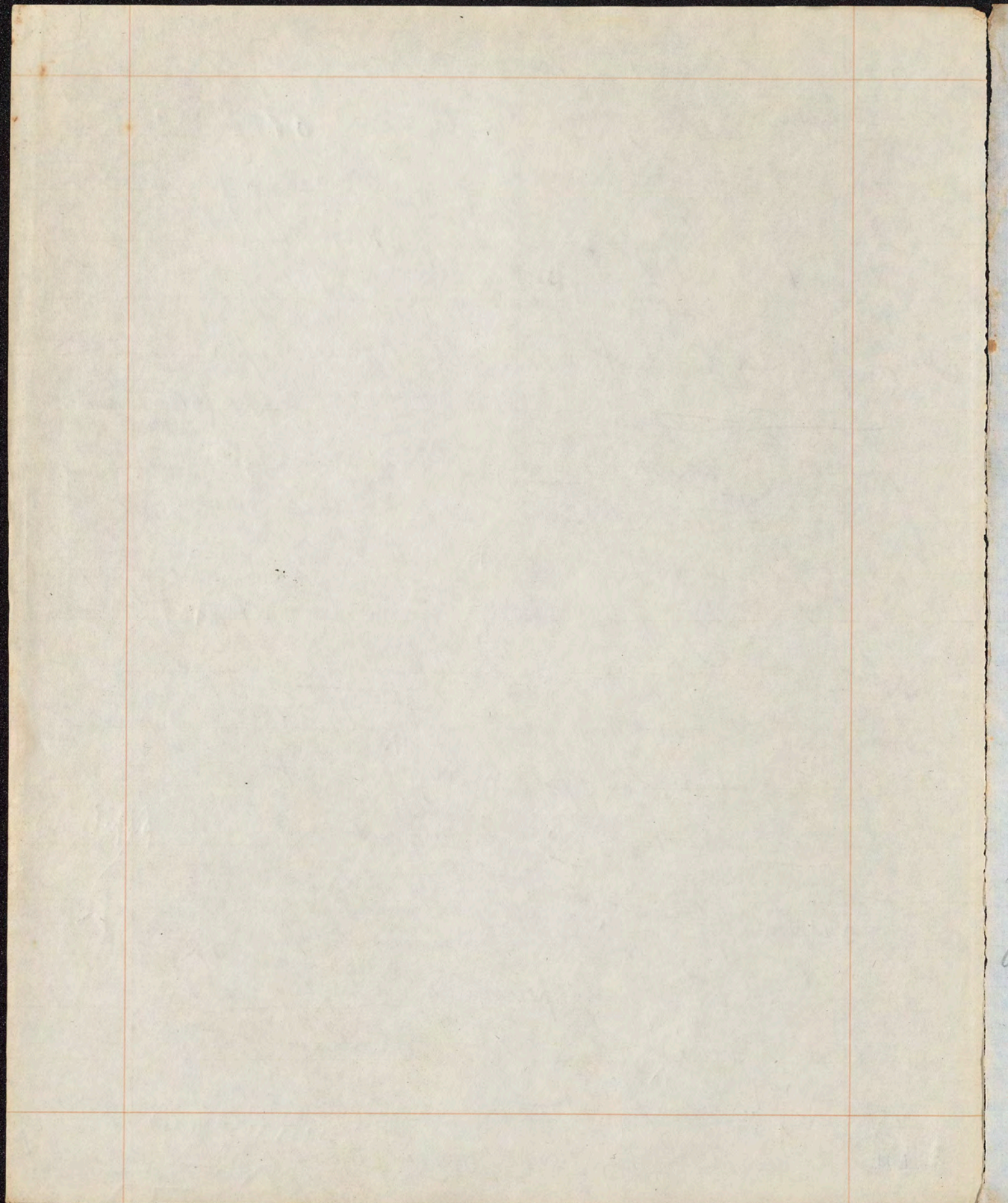




not find, within these walls, any <sup>real</sup> deficiency  
in the means, ~~the~~ materials, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> prompt  
assistance, necessary for such a preparation.  
In my colleagues, I say ~~it~~ without hesitancy,  
you will meet with <sup>such</sup> energy, ability, and learning,  
~~it~~ <sup>are</sup> amply sufficient for all the purposes of ~~the~~  
course of ~~our~~ medical instruction; ~~and~~ for myself,  
though I ~~shall~~ shrink, ~~often~~, almost, in dismay,  
from the <sup>magnitude of the</sup> task ~~I have~~ set before me, yet the  
defects, which ~~would be~~ great, and the errors, which  
may be many, that ~~you~~ may have <sup>in the coming course</sup> to ~~regret~~, shall  
~~not~~ be made up, so far as possible, by earnest  
devotion to my subject, and <sup>strong</sup> interest in your  
welfare; what, I hope, ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> prevent us from falling  
very far short of our <sup>main</sup> design. pupils and

I trust that <sup>as it reaches</sup> you ~~may~~ <sup>will</sup> hear the same account of the success of our graduates,  
your part, for our <sup>common</sup> purpose, — I trust,  
Gentlemen, that it may prove no vain <sup>or idle</sup> bravado <sup>for me</sup> to say,  
as I have <sup>here</sup> said before, that the class of this College,  
though <sup>very</sup> far from <sup>being</sup> the largest in the country, may  
earn the much higher honor, of being amongst <sup>the most zealous and</sup> best prepared!







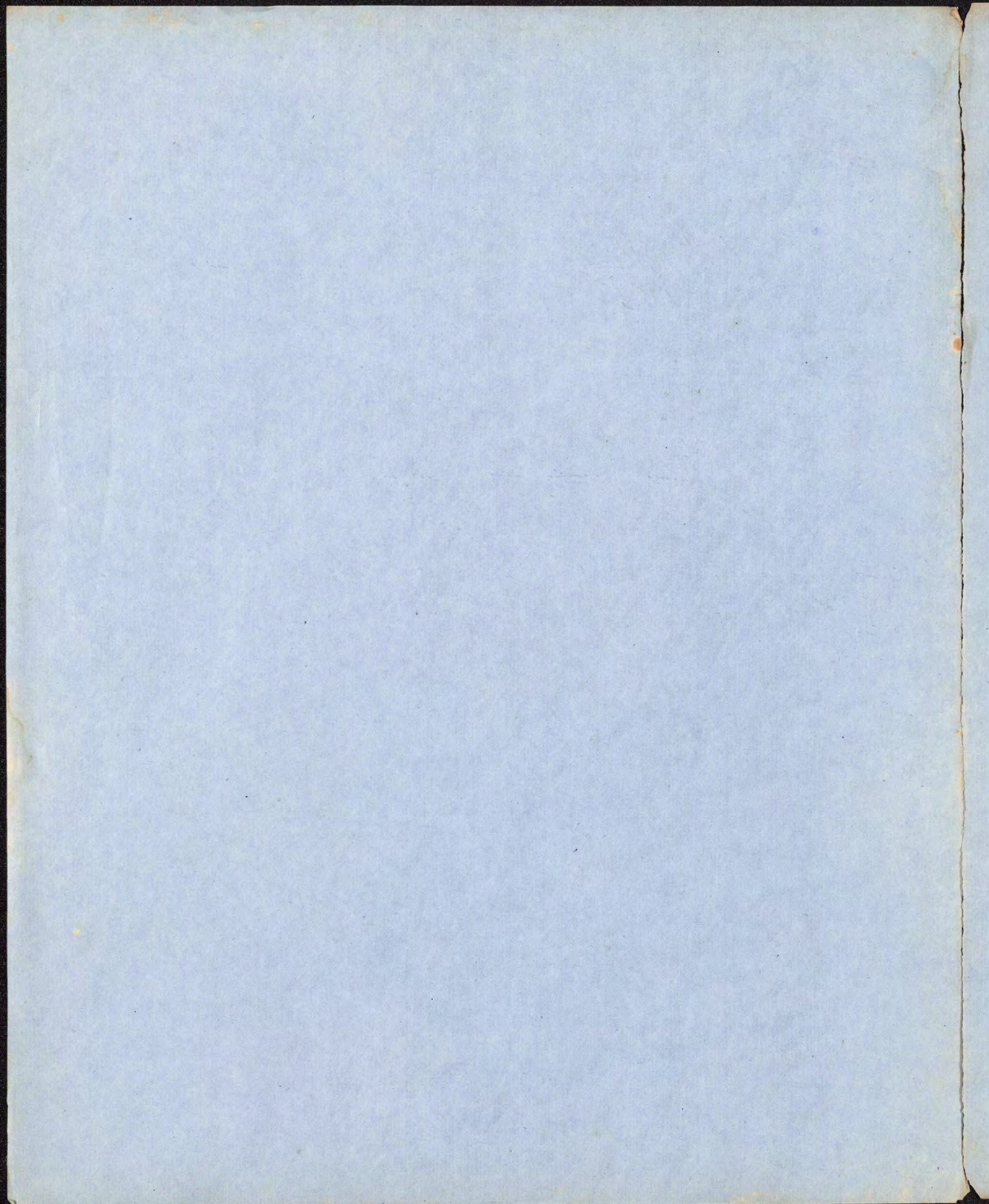
With miasmata. My eyes were yellow, - and  
yellowness was perceptible in my face.

My pulse was preternaturally quickened, -  
and I had profuse sweats every night.

~~These sweats were so offensive, - as to oblige~~  
~~me to draw the bed clothes close~~

But my nights were rendered disagreeable,  
not only <sup>thus,</sup> ~~by these sweats,~~ but by the want  
of my usual sleep, produced by frequent  
knocks at my door, - and by anxiety. I  
went to bed for habit only, - for it ceased  
to afford me rest or refreshment. When it was  
evening I wished for morning; and when it was  
morning, the prospect of the labours of the day, at  
which I often shuddered, caused me to wish  
for the return of evening. "Yet," - says this  
noble martyr of duty - "Altho, the success of  
my practice gave a tone to my mind, - which  
imparted preternatural vigor to my body.  
It was meat and drink to me to fulfil the duties







I owed to my fellow citizens, in this time of great and universal distress.

"Now," — he continues, — "time was too precious to be spent in counting the number of persons who called on me for advice. I was obliged to refuse many every day. My sister counted 47 in one forenoon before eleven o'clock. Many of them left my door with tears, but they did not feel more distress <sup>in refusing to attend them</sup> than I. — I recollect, — and even yet with pain, that I tore myself at one time from five persons, ~~in Horan's alley~~, — who attempted to stop me, — by suddenly whipping my horse, and driving my chair as speedily as possible beyond the reach of their cries."

I will ~~give~~ <sup>show</sup> you no more <sup>however</sup> of this sad account; — you may <sup>easily</sup> see how, in these times <sup>that try men's souls</sup>, — the physician is valued.



